

# NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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## **134,300 convicted sex criminals released as politicians jail pot smokers instead**

### ***Libertarians decry 'get-out-of-jail-free cards' for rapists***

WASHINGTON, DC — More than 134,000 sex criminals are roaming the streets of America — preying on innocent women and children — thanks to the War on Drugs, the Libertarian Party charged today.

"How many women and children will be raped or sexually molested because, instead of keeping sexual predators behind bars, politicians have filled our nation's jails with nonviolent drug users?" asked Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

His question followed a report released this week by the Department of Justice, which revealed that 134,300 violent sex criminals were released on parole or probation in 1994.

Astonishingly, only 99,300 sex criminals remained behind bars, according to the same report — meaning the government set free more rapists and molesters than it kept in jail.

"Why were those 134,300 sex criminals released?" asked Dasbach. "Because the government's War On Drugs is filling the nation's prisons at a rapid rate — while acting as a 'get-out-of-jail-free card' for rapists."

For example, Dasbach noted that one year after releasing the 134,300 sex criminals, the government arrested 589,000 people for marijuana possession. And more than 400,000 Americans are locked up on nonviolent drug charges — 50,000 just for marijuana possession.

"If we pardoned nonviolent drug users, every one of the 134,300 sex criminals the politicians released could be locked up again — without spending one more dollar or building one more jail cell," Dasbach said.

The 1994 exodus of rapists is partly attributable to that year's Crime Bill, he noted, which mandated life terms for many drug law violators, compelling prison officials to set more sexual predators free to relieve prison overcrowding.

"It's ironic that the Crime Bill, which Bill Clinton bragged would put 100,000 new cops on the beat, actually helped put 134,300 rapists on the street," he said. "It's even more ironic that politicians also passed the so-called Violence Against Women Act in 1994 at the same time they were turning loose tens of thousands of rapists."

"America's women are paying a terrible price because politicians would rather keep a person in jail for smoking a marijuana cigarette than for rape," said Dasbach. "Thanks to the politicians, the War on Drugs has become a War on Women."

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